

MEETING SUMMARY/ MINUTES



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 5th, 2021
8:30 a.m.



Attendees: Robert Anderson; Mary Pat Baldauf; Barbara Bowers; Penny Cothran; John Epting; David Foster; Robert Gudea; Jennifer Heinmiller; Gretchen Lambert; Zach Laprise; Bob Petrulis; Priscilla Preston; Clint Shealy; Peggy Smedley; Tamera Warren; Samantha Yager; Lori Ziolkowski.

Guests: John Cadena (Dominion Energy SC); Joe Cammerata (Kisner class); Larry Cook (USC, Aggregate cohort); Toni Ferri (Kisner class); Dalton Fulcher (USC Chapter, Sierra Club); Christina Gelardi (BPAC); Colt Gross (Kisner class); Miles Hanley (Richland 1, Aggregate Cohort member); Danny Kassis (Dominion Energy SC); Aric Johnson (Richland Co. admin); Tempest Johnson (USC); Matt Kisner (USC); Gage Pierce, Alex Rodriguez, Becca Smith (Sustainable Midlands); Nichole Stahley (Kisner class); Stacey Washington (SC Energy Office); Hunter Webb (Kisner class).

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

Chairman Lori Ziolkowski tuned the meeting over to assistant city manager Clint Shealy, who introduced Dominion Energy SC's John Cadena (Dominion SC manager of economic development and local government) and Danny Kassis (VP Renewables), who attended to discuss clean energy options with the appointees, who had submitted questions prior to the meeting.

John said that they've been meeting with the City for some time to discuss renewables and figure out how they can help the City reach its renewable goals. He explained that it's more of a process than an event, and that the City staff has been very helpful. He then turned it over to Danny Kassis.

Danny thanked the group for the opportunity to speak with them and said he had worked in the renewables space for seven years, assisting with Acts 236 and 62, both in terms of legislation and meeting statutory requirements. This year he has spent a lot of time at the

Public Service Commission in various proceedings to move them down the path toward decarbonization and toward clean energy. Dominion Energy has an ultimate goal to be net zero by 2050, and while that is a broader company goal, SC has a place in that plan.

Danny explained that in that journey, they're planning for an increasingly clean supply of energy with a high priority of affordability and reliability. Dominion SC has an Integrated Resource Plan before the PSC that shows:

- Coal retirement by 2028.
- Replacement of that energy with renewable investments of up to \$3.5 billion, including gas asset enhancement and the addition of 2000 MW of solar and 700 MW of solar storage.

In addition to Integrated Resource Plan 8, there is currently a competitive procurement document before the PSC which would create a potential path for renewable energy.

Danny explained it is increasingly challenging to create increasingly clean energy, while also balancing affordability and reliability.

Clint Shealy then asked Danny questions previously submitted by CPAC appointees. The following information was shared as part of the 45-minute question and answer period:

Like the City, Dominion is interested in renewables being affordable and reliable. Danny agreed that location was important and there were ways to commercially address the addition of clean energy, but that there were questions as to how affordable local placement, the closer to the municipal boundary, the costlier it will be.

Danny also suggested that energy efficiency is an important part of the transformation because the cleanest unit of energy is the one not created. He added that any transformation must include transportation: electrification of both public and private transportation.

When asked about the best approach a group of large customers who want to partner with Dominion to advance their collective goals. Danny said that the key is achieving affordability through participation; when it comes to bearing the burden and enjoying the benefits, the more participants, the better. He suggested that a custom deal would likely be the best method and allow the players to get where they want to be within the existing regulatory framework.

When asked about assistance beyond procurement of renewables, Danny mentioned three particular areas: energy efficiency (the cleanest unit of energy is the one not created); transportation (buses and EV conversion) and building efficiency (it's easier to build for efficiency than to retrofit an existing building).

Asked about the desire to go renewable on a tighter timeframe than the utility, Danny said that in the absence of regulatory reform, you work within the structure you have. If you can get a customized deal with multiple parties, that will help balance the burdens with the benefits.

When asked about potential partners maintaining special rates when coming to the renewable table in a custom deal, is complicated but can be done.

Addressing scale under solar, Danny stated that originally under Act 236, there were a lot of distribution interconnected utility scale solar sites between six and ten MW located mid-state. Over time, larger projects became the standard. After the first couple hundred MW under the system, the next six to seven hundred MW were almost exclusively 75 MW AC projects, transmission interconnected, largely in the same location. All were generally done as Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) projects, which had mandatory purchase obligation under avoided costs, i.e. no cost share. As more solar was added, it becomes less valuable to the system, and under that level, the SC Siting Act is not triggered (which requires PSC approval). The rule of thumb for siting solar is five acres per MW, a little more if incorporating storage.

Approximately five acres of land is needed to support each megawatt of solar, slightly more if storage is included.

Most SC solar farms are six to ten megawatts, mostly in the center part of the state. Over time, larger farms, closer to 75 MW, became standard. Term lengths vary; private entities generally use shorter contracts of 15-20 years. In the Midlands, the solar farm located by Dominion in Cayce is 1.6 MS AC; the one at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport is about one MW.

Regarding que interconnection and review reform, it is on the open docket. There are two stakeholder processes (front of meter aka utility scale, behind the meter aka residential). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been more focused on Phase Two, cluster analysis reviewed in the order received. Danny explained that most of the front of meter requests have been considered. For context, Clint noted that there were a lot more applications that are backlogged, not all of which are serious, but all have to be reviewed in the order in which they were received.

Danny was then asked how Dominion can help renters and/or those whose residences aren't suited for solar. He explained that was a tough one; community solar would have been a path, but it's full and to capacity. He noted that Act 62 limited interest in the creation of smaller scale solar due to limitations on cost ships, this making it a less affordable option. He suggested that renters be focused on energy efficiency or be in the conversation with the City and other entities who might create a custom deal that included subscriber solar.

Dominion is using wind in Virginia, where it had a clear legislative path; two systems are being built out through 2026. There is presently no wind power in Dominion's SC resource plan. (Note: John Cadena posted a link on the Chat <https://www.dominionenergy.com/projects-and-facilities/wind-power-facilities-and-projects/coastal-virginia-offshore-wind>, noting it was good information on Dominion Energy's offshore wind project.)

Danny then addresses the Smithfield/Dominion RNG pilot project in NC, which captures methane from hog farms and injects it into the natural gas system. Again, legislation was the catalyst for this project and would be an important factor in South Carolina. Natural gas is a significant part of Dominion's business.

When asked his advice for next steps, Danny said that always define your goals as specifically as possible. Long range goals are good, but need short term goals in place to be sure you're on track to meet the longer term ones.

When Clint finished the list of questions, Dr. Z. opened the floor for the submission of one additional questions. An appointee asked the best way for renters to save money; Danny said definitely HVAC and thermostatic control. He mentioned that time of use rates would help manage the load and create a better system, as well as providing opportunities for residential savings.

Clint thanked Danny for engaging CPAC today, and Danny noted this is a journey that we're taking together and that he appreciated the opportunity.

Next, Dr. Z. called on staff reports. Clint announced that through the first year of the anaerobic digestion process, nearly 10 million lbs. of bio solids have been diverted from the landfill. This created a 35% reduction in hauling costs and 27% landfill disposal fees. This is both saving money and reducing the City's GHG emissions.

Samanatha Yager reported that the City recently received a \$1500 check for recycling from Sonoco, the first check in a year and a half. This positive turnaround to having to pay Sonoco for recycling is due to positive changes in the recycling market.

Mary Pat reported that by and large her activities have been business as usual. The WRI cohort for EV chargers is ending, and while she has learned a lot about EV chargers, she was disappointed that the end result wasn't creation of a plan for participants.

Dr. Z. mentioned the ongoing WRI large scale solar aggregate.

Bob Petrulis reported that he has not yet had time to call the initial meeting of the proposed Communications Committee, but hopes to do that soon. He also reported that the next

quarterly webinar, scheduled for December, will feature faith communities and ideas about stewardship and how that drives their actions climate and environmental actions.

Secretary Gretchen Lambert updated the group on the CPAC appointment process, and new appointees introduced themselves. She also walked through the CPAC timeline, which Mary Pat will send out with the minutes.

Before closing, Dr. Z. the topic for the October 19 meeting will be a Green Bank scoping conversation facilitated by the SC Energy Office.

The meeting ended at 10:09 a.m.